The operation of the notification S.O. No. 1519 (E) dated the 23rd August, 2007 has, however, been kept in abeyance as at present there is no testing facility for testing of GM processed foods with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and till such time a regulatory framework is established by it for testing and approval of GM foods in the country, the Ministry of Environment and Forests may continue with their regulatory measures in respect of such food items. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India created during the year 2008 itself has been allocated a fund of Rs.8 crores to be released through Grants-in-aid.

(e) Does not arise.

Health Insurance Scheme

†2096. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to cover mostly poor families in the Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has prepared a framework for introducing health insurance scheme for the BPL population. The States have been requested to prepare need based, community oriented, innovative and flexible insurance policies for implementation on pilot basis. Only Government of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have started the pilot projects.

Under NRHM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare subsidizes the cost of the annual premium up to 75%, subject to a maximum of Rs.300/- per BPL Family.

The pilot project in the State of Andhra Pradesh was started in the year 2007-08 and an amount of Rs.10 crores each was agreed to as share of the Union Government during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 as the scheme was deviating from the framework provided to the State Government and number of BPL families covered was not according to Planning Commission guidelines.

The pilot project of Government of Rajasthan for 5 districts was agreed with an amount of Rs.23.64 crores as share of the Union Government during the years 2007-08. During 2008-09, the State has made provisions for risk pooling in their Programme implementation Plan to the tune of Rs.39.29 Crores for 11 districts (5 old and 6 new) under National Rural Health Mission for Health Insurance Scheme for BPL population and the same has been approved.

Deaths due to Tuberculosis

†2097. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.